(NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging interbasin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components namely Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. The Peninsular Rivers Development Component of NPP was discussed in the Conference of the State Irrigation Ministers held during 1980 and 1981 and were welcomed by all, Seeing the merit of the concept, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs.) NWDA has completed feasibility reports for thirteen links. With a view to bringing about a consensus among the states and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding etc., the Central Govt. and set up a Task Force in December, 2002. The Task Force had submitted the required Action Plans to the Government. The National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government indicates that it will make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with the sourthern rivers and this assessment will be done in a fully consultative manner. After the comprehensive assessment, it has been decided that river linking programme be continued with a focus on peninsular rivers.

Pending irrigation schemes

†570. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hydro-electric and irrigation schemes proposed by the States are under consideration since long in the absence of consensus between his Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, the details of these schemes, State-wise; and

(c) by when these schemes are linkely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The techno-economic appraisal of hydro-electric projects is dealt in the Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power. There is no requirement of consensus between Ministry of Water Resoruces and Ministry of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.